the hazard of charges of favoritism and preju-dice, productive of a discontent as injurious, bly, as the evil itself. It is true, also, that the Secretary of the Navy has the discretionary power to place officers on furlough, and thereby reduce their pay. It has frequently been done. I have exercised the power myself. But in the absence of some uniform rule, sanctioned by law, the effort at discrimination, however sincere and disinterested, is so embar-rassed with difficulties—by no means diminished by the interposing appeals of the friends of the parties—that this power, if not paralyzed, is divested almost entirely of its salutary and

corrective virtue.

To illustrate the unfairness of the present system, permit me to mention a few facts, not with the view of invidious comparison, but solely to elucidate the subject. There are officers who have been in the navy more than forty years, whose total sea service is less than ten years, who receive the same pay with those of their grade whose sea service is fifteen, eighteen, and more than twenty years. These officers, who are thus receiving pay, prevent the promotion of those below them, who have seen more than twice their service at sea, and have helped to give their country a name. There are inefficient officers who have not done duty, on sea or shore, for twelve, fifteen and twenty There are lieutenants who have seen double the service of some of a higher grade, and receive but half their pay. There are many passed midshipmen of more than ten years' sea service, whose pay on leave is six hundred dollars, and there are their superiors in rank of less than ten years' sea service, whose pay is twenty five hundred dollars.

The pride of rank and position is the anima-

ting element that imparts vigor to the arm, courage to the heart, buoyancy to the spirits of the faithful officer; and there is a peculiar sensitiveness to the slighest neglect. But, in a country like ours—so full of rich fields inviting the enterprising—presenting so many paths through which the aspiring may advance to fame and fortune—what is there in the above outline of the picture which our naval system exhibits - attract the accomplished young exhibite the accomplished young men of the day? The timid and the laggar are promoted as rapidly as the brave and the The officer who has borne himself well in twenty years' service, amidst the storms and the dangers of the sea, beneath tropical suns, and near unfriendly coasts, on obtaining his few months' leave of absence, finds himself only receiving the same pay with those of his own grade who have lingered amid the comforts of home, and rarely ever touch the deck of a ship. But it may be said that pay should be increased with rank, and that the officer of the lower grade should be content until he at-tains a higher rank. This reasoning, however, is met by conceding the correctness of the principle, but protesting against the system which blocks up the path to rank by imbecility or incompetency, and thus deprives merit and hard service both of rank and pay. I am aware that it is an easier task to point out defects than to prescribe remedies. But the evils of our system can hardly be diminished by time, and no reform can be expected without effort.

I entertain the opinion that a retired list, on reduced pay, for the faithful who have become infirm; the discharge of the inefficient who have no claim on the bounty of their government for common the bounty of their government. ment for services rendered; promotion regula-ted by capacity, merit, and not by mere seniority of commission; pay to some extent controlled by sea-service—are reforms not only demanded by the condition of the service, by considerations of justice, but absolutely necessary to the preservation of efficiency and usefulness. There are officers whom the infirmities of age, or the ravages of disease incident to the exposures of a rough seafaring life, have rendered unfit for duty. They have been faithful public servants, ever ready to obey orders, and from their vocation improvident for the future. On retiring such men, to secure the aid of the more vigorous and active, a grateful country may well deal generously, and thus, at the same time, administer kindness to age and fidelity—justice to the deserving. I believe this plan of a retired list can be so arranged as to protect the treasury from the heavy drains of an odious the discharged, organize thus a corps of efficient officers, and, as a question of economy, this system, with proper guards and restrictions, may be one rather of retrenchment than extray agance. To apply these principles, and reduce them to practical operation, may at first seem inconvenient and embarrassing. But, in common with many who have bestowed much consideration on this subject, I am persuaded that the difficulties are far from being insurmount-

A board of officers, of various grades, care fully selected by the President, can be convened periodically, to report to him the names of those who, in their judgment, should be made subjects of the rules prescribed. Their report may be subject to the approval, or reversal or modification, of the President. To enable them to act intelligently and impartially in this delicate task, the Secretary of the Navy can lay before them not merely the Navy Register and the records of the department, but may materially contribute to their enlightenment by inviting, in the least offensive and most delicate mode the opinions of the officers themselves touching the fitness of those of their own grade and those below, whom association and opportunity have enabled them to know. But I forbear to enlarge upon the details ne-

cessary to give shape and effectiveness to the

In the present system of pay, experience and observation convince me that there is a radical error. Although pay should not be, and is not, the chief incentive to activity, yet every consideration justifies the policy and propriety of, to some extent, regulating pay by service. The difference between leave of absence and duty pay is so very small that it practically invites officer to avoid sea service, and really makes it more profitable to be idle than to labo If sea service gave a certain per cent. increased pay, under proper limitations and restrictions effects would be two-fold. It would be but a just reward to diligence, and would stimulate officers to go to sea, so as to swell their income for themselves and families. recommend, therefore, a modification of our present pay system in accordance with these views, and I am satisfied it will promote a desize for sea service, instead of a reluctant obe-dience to orders. The pay of the forward warrant officers also needs regulating. They are useful officers.

The specifications, however, of the various changes which appear to me all-important in regard to rank, promotion, and pay, would un-necessarily extend this report; and, with the expression of a hearty willingness to co-operate with Congress in arranging the details of measnres to accomplish what may to it seem needful, I proceed to throw out a few suggestions touching the

Modification of our system in regard to seamen, with a view to encourage more permanent enlistments, to identify them more thoroughly with the navy, and elevate their character by a plan of rewards as well as punishments.

While the vigor and reform incident to our happy American institutions have been sucfully infused into almost every department of government, and penetrated almost every fibre of the body politic, the neglected sailor, if we except the generous munificence of asylum and hospital, has too rarely felt the friendly touch of the legislative hand, and has continned to toil on, under a code of discipline and laws but little modified since the days when the press-gang dragged the unwilling victim from e hovel to the man-of-war.

out the sanction of law could only be made at young men of our own country-is not only attracting the attention of the public, but seriously embarrassing the efforts of the department to maintain even the small naval force now allowed by law. Hundreds of merchant vessels are almost daily darting forth from our busy marts, readily filled with cheerful seamen, courting danger upon the element on which they love to live, while our ships-of-war are lin-gering in port until the recruiting officers, by hard effort, can manage, by the aid of the ex-acting landlord of the sailor tavern and a small

instead of 1. See

bounty, to procure tardy enlistments.

Our cities, towns, and villages are thronged with athletic young men, struggling anxiously for employment in petty offices and in every department of labor; and when disappointment and idleness beget dissipation, and dissipation reduces to degradation, and friends regard them as burdens to family and prisoness to seciety. as burdens to family and nuisances to society, then, and often not till then, do we hear the remark that they are now only fit to become

sailors in the navy!

Why are the laboring young men of our country so reluctant to sail and serve under their country's flag? Is it a dishonorable calling? Why do our merchant marine find comparatively so little difficulty in procuring seamen? Is it because they care more for them

—encourage them more—pay them better?

While I am far, very far, from proposing to relax discipline, to tolerate insubordination, to hesitate at administering punishment—sure punishment to correct the offender and to deter the innocent—I do propose some reform of our system so as to reward the meritorious, to elevate the character of our seamen, to give more respectability to their pursuit, to cause them to become identified with, incorporated into, and a part of the navy itself; to pay them bet-ter, to encourage them to love the flag under which they sail, and when they walk the deck of the man-of-war in a foreign port, and compare their condition with the sailors of other governments, to feel some pride in being Ame-

ican sailors under American colors.

There is much in the character of the sailor excite our admiration-much to enlist our sympathy. He is brave, generous, self-sacriicing; and when, after a long cruise far from home and friends, tempest-tossed and weather-beaten, he treads upon the soil of his country again, discharged from the service, improvident and wasteful, unfit for land service, the victim of the more cunning, soon bereft of his hard earnings, surely it is but natural that this wanderer should look to his government to care for him, and invite him to return to a service for which alone he is fitted, and in which he is so much relied upon to protect the commerce, the rights, the honor of that government. Without well-disciplined, contente efficient seamen to man our ships, we may have officers of gallant bearing, vessels of storm-defying strength and beautiful symmetry, but

the vital spirit will be wanting.

It becomes, therefore, a matter of grave inquiry how shall this branch of the public service be modified so as to secure the best seamen and prevent expensive delays in dispatch

In the first place, I deem it indispensable that some plan be adopted by which our seamen shall become more distinctly and permanently a part of the navy, and attached to the service. Whenever a ship-of-war now returns from her three years' cruise, the officers are de-tached and granted a leave of absence for three months, with leave of absence pay; but the seamen are peremptorily discharged—disconnected from the service. If they have been meritorious, I propose that on their return they be granted an honorable discharge (to be con-sidered a leave of absence on pay) if within a certain time they choose to re-enlist in the service. This would possess a two-fold virtue—of fair and generous treatment at parting, and an invitation to continue a member of a family caring for them during a temporary absence. They will soon regard the ship-of-war as their home; they will feel that they are a part of the navy of their country; they will compare their condition with that of the seamen of the mercantile marine, appreciate their advantage, and cling to the service.

It may be also well worthy of consideration Reduce the pay of the retired, stop the pay of the number of continuous cruises he makes, thereby creating an additional incentive to remain in the service. It is believed that by the officers in command on returning from a cruise filing in the department a certain list of those who are honorably discharged, there will be but little difficulty in simplifying and executing this plan, and so systematising it by registration as to produce the good results incident to making them a regular part of the navy, and thus touch their pride as well as their hearts. Many interesting suggestions on this subject were commended to the consideration of Congress by my immediate predecessor.

Another change indispensable to the prompt securement of the services of first class seamen is to pay them at least as much as their skill, experience, and character will command in the merchant service. It is the effort of the department to regulate the pay of the hundreds of mechanics and laborers in the various navy yards, so as to correspond with the pay of similar employees in private establishments outside of the yards. Such, however, is not the case in regard to seamen. The appropriation will not permit it. 'Tis true that necesity has recently driven the department to paying a bounty, which will be suspended so soon as the vessels indispensable to the service are

Busy enterprise is dotting every ocean and sea and river with vessels. The demand for seamen is proportionally increased. The wages now range om fifteen to twenty dollars per month, whereas in the navy the best seamen are paid but twelve dollars. Can we expect, therefore, to command readily any seamen—much less the best—under this state of things? My opinion is, therefore, that the pay should be increased. But, perhaps, the most practical and important reform to promote efficiency in the corps of mariners is the blending together a system of rewards and punishments, to encourage the meritorious and to subdue the disorderly.

The abolition of punishment by flogging, without legalizing some substitute therefor, has already occupied the attention of Congress and the country, and severely tested the forbearance and ingenuity of officers, and the character of hesitation in expressing an opinion against its restoration. Having recently visited many of the ships in commission, conversed with the veteran sailors, and listened to the narratives officers who have had the command of large crews since the law of 1850, my decided conviction, concurred in, too, by many officers who originally opposed its abolition, is, that its restoration would create discontent and desertion, and prove positively prejudicial to the efficiency of that branch of the public service. But, at the same time, I cannot too seriously urge the policy of legalizing some substitute therefor. It is said that the confinement of the disor-

derly and refractory seamen is but little punishment to them, but rather burdensome and oppressive to the faithful, whose increased la-bors make them the sufferers, and create a reluctance on the part of good sailors to remain in the service. This suggestion merits consideration. I propose a remedy by which the punishment of the indolent and deserter will increase the pay of the faithful, and thereby tend to promote his contentment instead of mur-

The sailor on shore is ruckless and wasteful; afloat he is remarkably avaricious, and daily counts over the balances due him, and estimates his reckonings of pleasures at the end of

sailor, and he will do the additional labor with

additional good will, and without a murmur.

If the deserter leaves his shipmates overtasked with increased burdens by his desertion, change the present regulation—let the deserter's pay be forfeited to the faithful portion of the crew, and not, as now, to the government.

Instead of investing the commander of the ship with this responsibility—in cases involving either a forfeiture of pay or a discharge from the service—let a commission of a certain number of officers of the ship be detailed and constituted a court, whose decisions shall be subject to the approving power of the com-manding officer. This would be very simple, would break the force of captions cavilling at the single judgment of the commander, and would obviate the necessity, expense, delay, and demoralizing influence of frequent courtsmartial, composed, as at present, of a higher

class of officers. Let this minor court on every ship, with the approving, reversing, or mitigating power of the officer in command, have plenary power to confine offenders, with a reduction of rations with or without pay. Empower the commander, upon the recommendation of this commission, to discharge offenders with forfeiture of pay. Let the fund accruing from the forfeited pay of the imprisoned, the discharged, and the deserters, constitute a merit fund, not to be discharged. tributed until the termination of the cruise-and then to be distributed according to the judgment of this commission, based upon the conduct of the crew, to those who are by them adjudged on the homeward-bound passage to have been meritorious and faithful, and loyal to their flag. The fund thus accruing from various sources, at the end of a long cruise, would constitute a prize sufficient to stimulate the crew to win a share by fidelity to the end. And the forfeiture of pay, with confinement and reduction of rations, would di-

minish offences.

The establishment of this tribunal on each ship-of-war on a cruise, would tend much to secure obedience from the crew to those in command, and thus, instead of flogging and other degrading punishments, substitute close confinement, forfeiture of pay, reduction of rations, denying of liberty and shore privileges. These would punish the offending. Let the "honorable discharged," temporary leave-of-absence pay, the distribution of the merit fund, liberty and shore privileges, be the reward of

the meritorious and true. The estimates for the support of the navy and the marine corps for the year ending June 30, 1855, and for all objects coming under the control of this department, are in the aggregate \$11,730,515 19 From which deduct special ob-

jects, including transportation of the mails in steamships . 3,379,344 00

Leaves for the support of the navy and marine corps . . 8,351,171 19

The total amount drawn from the treasury during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1853, as exhibited by the statement of appropriations for the naval service, prepared by the Second Comptroller of the Treasury,
was \$12,091,120 87
From which deduct repayments 1,111,454 79

as the total expenditures for all

objects under the control of the Navy Department; but of this amount there was expended for special objects the sum of . 4,039,942 37

Leaving . . \$6,939,723 71 as the legitimate expenditures for the support

rience confirms me in the propriety of concur-ring in many of the important changes in the resent contract system, particularly presented the report from the Bureau of Provision and

Clothing. Under the existing system contracts are taken oo often by speculators, who, not being regular dealers in the article they propose to supply, merely embark in the business for the purposes of either selling the contract, or only complying with its terms if the state of the market will adnit of large profits being made. Suits are often brought on the bonds, but a successful recove ry is far from being generally the result of the trial. I trust that the embarrassments which surround this subject may be relieved by salutary legislation.

In the present organization of the Navy Department there is a degree of labor, burdenome and embarrassing to the Secretary of the Navy, and severely distracting his attention from important business, which might, with great propriety and advantage, be otherwise listributed. The establishment of a Bureau of Personnel would merely add to the expenses of the government the difference between the present pay of an officer and what Congress might deem a proper salary for one discharging the duties of such a bureau. No additional clerks will be needed. It is hardly possible that a Secretary of the Navy can be sufficiently faniliar with the character, fitness, and service of the officers of the several grades, to enable him to detail them satisfactorily for duty. If the head of such a bureau should bear the same re ation to the Navy Department that the Adiutant General does to the War, it would, in my opinion, contribute much to perfecting the or-

ranization of this department.

I have thus, sir, taken the liberty to present or consideration many changes while opinion, will promote organization, discipline, opinion, will promote organization, discipline, or consideration many changes which, in my and economy. There are practical reforms vice which need not be obtruded on your attention in this report, but which every effort

will be made to effect. I have the honor to be, with great respect

our obedient servant. J. C. DOBBIN.

To the PRESIDENT of the United States. CANNEL COAL .- The discovery of this value ole mineral in our neighborhood in immense quantities has been rendered certain by recent explorations. Mr. Joseph Burket, the fortu-nate individual on whose property the treasure has been found, has already drifted nearly one hundred feet into the hill, and the prospect opened is promising indeed. As he progressed the vein became thicker in size and purer in quality; and at the point to which he has now arrived, the vein is eight feet nine inches thick, and of the very purest quality. We have seen the coal tried, and it burns beautifully, not unlike dry hickory wood—and the ashes it leaves are like those of wood. Iron ore has also been found within a short distance of the spot. This valuable discovery is within six miles of Ebensourg. - Alleghanian.

It is now settled beyond a doubt, that western ennsylvania possesses inexhaustible quantities of cannel coal, of excellent qualities. It is found in Beaver, Armstrong, and Indiana coun-ties, and no doubt exists in Butler, Jefferson, and Clearfield counties. The quantities already discovered are immense. Western Pennsylvania possesses fine water power, inexhaustible supplies of coal and iron ore, a fertile soil, a salubrious climate, magnificent scenery, and a central position.—Pittsburgh Gazette.

Small Notes in Virginia. Judge Hudson, With a population approaching 30,000,000, full of enterprise and adventure, the difficulty of procuring sailors to man our ships-of-war-more particularly the difficulty of enlisting the mates his rectaonings of pleasance at the court of the Greenbrier (Va.) superior court, recently, said that it was of no use for them different, punish the laggard by a forfeiture of pay, not to the government, but to the faithful cepted

Congressional

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS. FIRST SESSION.

Senate—Thursday, December 8, 1853. On motion of Mr. JONES, of Iowa, it was or-

DEATH OF THE VICE PRESIDENT. Mr. HUNTER. Since the adjournment of the last Congress, an event has occurred which it becomes us to notice. The American people have lost a Vice President, and the Senate a presiding officer, by the death of WILLIAM R. King, who departed this life on the — of April last, at his home in the State of Alabama. I rise to ask that we may pause for a day at least in our deliberations upon the affairs of life, to devote it to the memory of one who was bound to us by so many personal and official ties. Surely, sir, there are none within the limits of this wide-spread confederacy, to whom the life and services of WILLIAM R. King are known, who would not be ready with some offering, either of public respect or personal affection, to bestow upon his tomb. There have been few public men, whose lives have been as long and as active as his, who have made more friends, and none, I am sure, ever left fewer enemies. Nor was his one of those cold and impassive characters which shed their light without heat, but its kindly influences fell with genial and friendly warmth within whatever cirele he might move.

It is a happy thing for a country when the lives of its public men may be thrown freely open to the world, and challenge its closest scrutiny, with a consciousness on the part of the friendly critic that there is no blot to be concealed, and no glaring fault which a love of truth forbids him to deny, and his own sense of right scarcely allows him to palliate. Here, at least, is a public man, in whose life there can be found no instance of a mean or equivocating action, none of a departure from the self-imposed restraints of a refined and lofty sense of honor, and none in which either the fear of man or the seductions of ambition tempted him Mr. HUNTER. Since the adjournment of the

equivocating action, none of a departure from the self-imposed restraints of a refined and lofty sense of honor, and none in which either the fear of man or the seductions of ambition tempted him to a deed which could destroy either his own self-respect or the respect of others for him. He trod the difficult and devious paths to political preferment long and successfully, and yet he kept his robes unsoiled by the vile mire which so often pollutes those ways. It is said, that the story of every human life, if rightly told, may convey a useful lesson to those who survive. Of all the public men whom I have known, there are none whose lives teach more impressively the great moral of the strength which public virtue gives than that of Colonel King. His was an instance in which greatness was achieved without the aid of those brilliant qualities whose rare assemblage the world calls genius, but by what is better far, a sound judgment, a resolute purpose to pursue the right, and a capacity to gather wisdom from experience. He was no orator, and yet, from the force of character, he could wield an influence which mere oratory never commanded. He had none of that presumptuous self-confidence which so often misleads ourselves and others, and which, though a dangerous, is still a commanding quality; but he knew how to inspire a recole with a restrict of the series of the series

presumptuous self-confidence which so often misleads ourselves and others, and which, though a
dangerous, is still a commanding quality; but he
knew how to inspire a people with a just confidence in the soundness of his judgment and the
integrity of his purpose, so as to be looked to as
a safe depositary of trust and power.

Although gentle and kind in his intercourse with
others, he could be stern enough when the public
interests or his personal honor required it. He
was a man, sir, whose whole soul would have
sickened under a sense of personal dishonor.

It is not surprising, then, that each step in the
political career of such a man should have been
crowned with public honors. At the age of twentyone he was elected to the legislature of North
Carolina, his native State, where he served until he
was twenty-five years of age, when he was
sent to the House of Representatives of the United States, where he served from 1811 to 1816,
when he resigned to go abroad as secretary of
legation to Mr. Pinckney, our minister to Russia. Upon his return he emigrated to Alabama,
where he was almost immediately sent to their
constitutional convention.

And at the first session of the first legislature

ascending to that place, which was, perhaps, the now chief object of his aspiration. And yet as if to him. sooner or later feel the emptiness of the earthly objects of our usual pursuit, that much-prized honor was to him the Dead Sea fruit which turns to ashes objects of our usual pursuit, that much-prized honor was to him the Dead Sea fruit which turns to ashes on the lips. It came, but it came too late. The breath of public applause could not revive the flame which flickered in the lamp of life. In vain did the assiduity of relatives and friends surround him with affectionate care. In vain did the aspirations of a whole people ascend to heaven for his recovery. The balmy influences of neither sea nor sky could revive or restore him. When the public messenger came to clothe him with the forms of office, his chief earthly wish was to see his home once more, and in the midst of familiar scenes to die amongst his friends. His desire was gratified. Life and its busy scenes on this side the grave are now closed on him forever. But its tale yet remains to be told. Not by me, sir, or at this time. But it will be told in the chronicles of his State hereafter, when it may become a labor of love to some of her sons to write the story labor of love to some of her sons to write the story of its founders and sages. It will be told in our of its founders and sages. It will be told in our own political history by whoever may portray the stirring and eventful scenes in which he acted a prominent and useful part. It will be told, too, and perhaps heard, with most interest in the traditions of a family of which he was the ornament and wide.

pride.

Mr. President, those to whom our people have been long accustomed to look in times of difficulty and emergency for counsel and opinion, are fall-ing fast around us. It is an anxious thing to feel their loss at a period like this, pregnant with change, and teeming, perhaps, with great and strange events. The men we cannot recall; but let us preserve their memories; let us study their teachings, and it will be well if, in many respects, we shall follow their examples.

I offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That from respect to the late William R. King, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, the chair of the President of the Senate be shrouded with black; and, as a further testimony of respect to the memory of the deceased, the members of the senate will go into mourning by wearing crape on their left arm for thirty days.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives.

this resolution to the House of Representatives.

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. President: I have been requested to second the motion which has just been made by the senator from Virginia. I do so with great cheerfulness. It was my good fortune to enjoy the acquaintance of the late Vice President—I hope, even some portion of his friendly regard—for a longer period probably than most of those within the sound of my voice—a period of nearly thirty years. Such being the case, I feel as if I ought not to remain silent at this last moment, when our relations to him as members of this Senate are, by the performance of this day's melancholy duty, about to be closed forever.

There is an ancient maxim, sir, founded at once in justice and right feeling, which bids us "say nothing but what is good of the dead." I can obey this rule, in reference to the late Vice President, without violating the most scrupulous dictates of sincerity. I can say nothing but what is good of him, for I have never seen or heard any thing but good of him for thirty years that I have known him personally and by reputation.

It would hardly be expected of me, to attempt to detail the incidents of the private life or the public career of the late Vice President. That duty belongs to others, by whom it has been, or will no doubt be appropriately performed. I regret, particularly on this occasion, the unavoidable absence of our colleagues from Alabama. It is the province of those of us, not connected with him by political associations, especially of those inhabiting remote parts of our common country, to express their cordial concurrence in the affectionate praises, which have been or may be pronounced by his fellow-citizens and neighbors.

Few of the public men of the day had been so intimately associated with the Senate as the late Vice President. I think he had been a member of the body for more years than any person now belonging to it. Besides this, a relation of a different kind had. Mr. EVERETT. Mr. President : I have bee

Vice President. I think he had been a member of the body for more years than any person now belonging to it. Besides this, a relation of a different kind had grown up between him and the Senate. The federal Constitution devolves upon the people, through the medium of the electoral colleges, the choice of the presiding officer of this body. But whenever the Senate was called to supply the place temporarily for a long course of supply the place temporarily, for a long course of years, and till he ceased to belong to it, it turned

spontaneously to him.

He undoubtedly owed this honor to distinguished qualifications for the chair. He possessed,

in an eminent degree, that quickness of perception, that promptness of decision, that familiarity with the now somewhat complicated rules of congressional proceedings, and that urbanity of manner, which are required in a presiding officer. Not claiming, although an acute and forcible debater, to rank with his illustrious cotemporaries, whom now, alas! we can mention only to deplore—with Calhoun, with Clay, and with Webster. (I name them alphabetically, and who will presume to arrange them on any other principle.) whose unmatched eloquence so often shook the walls of this Senate, the late Vice President possessed the rare and the highly important talent of controlling, with impartiality, the storm of debate, and moderating between mighty spirits, whose ardent conflicts at times seemed to threaten the stability of the republic. in an eminent degree, that quickness of percep-

the republic.

In fact, sir, he was highly endowed with what In fact, sir, he was highly endowed with what Cloero beautifully commends as the boni senatoris prudentia, the "wisdom of a good senator;" and in his accurate study and ready application of the rules of parliamentary law, he rendered a service to the country, not perhaps of the most briliant kind, but assuredly of no secondary importance. There is nothing which more distinguishes the great national race to which we belong, than its aptitude for government by deliberative assemblies; its willingness, while it asserts the largest liberty of parliamentary right, to respect what the senator from Virginia in another connection has called the self-imposed restrictions of parliamentary order; and I do not think it an exageration to say, that there is no trait in their character

mentary order; and I do not think it an exageration to say, that there is no trait in their character which has proved more conducive to the dispatch of the public business—to the freedom of debate—to the honor of the country—I will say, even which has done more to establish and perpetuate constitutional liberty.

The long and faithful senatorial career of the late Vice President received at last its appropriate reward. The people of the United States, having often witnessed the disposition of the Senate to place him at their head, and the dignified and acceptable manner in which he bore himself in that capacity, conferred upon him, a twelve month since, that office, which is shown by repeated and recent experience to be above the second, if not

since, that office, which is shown by repeated and recent experience to be above the second, if not actually the first, in their gift—the office which placed him constitutionally and permanently, during its continuance, in the chair of the Senate.

A mysterious dispensation of Providence has nipped these crowning honors in the bud. A disease, for which the perpetual summer and perfumed breezes of the tropics afforded no balm, overtook him at an age when he might, in the course of nature, have reasonably looked forward to still many years of active service. Clothed by a special and remarkable act of Congress, even while under a foreign jurisdiction, with the constitutional qualifications to enter upon the high office to which he had been elected, he returned, not to exercise its functions, but to seek his much-loved exercise its functions, but to seek his much-loved

tome, and there to die.

Thus, sir, he has left us to chase for a little while Thus, sir, he has left us to chase for a little while longer the shadows which he has exchanged for unutterable realities. He has left us, sir, prematurely for everything but his spotless name, and his entrance on the well-earned honors of his unambitious career. And we, senators, for all the interchange of kindness—for all the intercourse of private life—for all the acts of co-operation in the public service, to which for at least four years the Senate was looking forward in its connection with him—have nothing left to offer to his friends and his memory but the unavailing tribute of this last mournful farewell.

I second the resolutions of the senator from Virginia.

I second the resolutions of the senator from Virginia.

Mr. CASS. Mr. President: Again has death invaded the high places of our land, and has taken from us a critizen distinguished by his talents, his worth, and his services, and enjoying the confidence and affection of his countrymen. In the Providence of God, these visitations come to warn that none are a transfer to the description. us, that none are exempt from the decree, that in life we are in the midst of death, and that be ye life we are in the midst of death, and that be ye also ready is a solemn admonition, announced to us from the cradle to the grave, by the mighty and the lowly, as they successively fall before the great destroyer. The lesson is the more impressive, the higher is the position, and the more eminent the character of him, whose departure we may be called upon to mourn. And when one who occupied the second station in our country, is summoned from the duties of this life to the responsibility of that which is to come, as the loss is a national one, the manifestation of public sympathy, and

that which is to come, as the loss is a national one, the manifestation of public sympathy, and the acknowledgment of the public grief, should be national also. Our lamented friend, the late Vice President, has been taken from us, full of years indeed, and of honors, but in the midst of his usefulness, and when he was just prepared to enter upon the high career to which he had been called by the American people. Upon this occasion, I desire to do little more than to express those sentiments of affectionate regard with which an acquaintance of many years had inspired me, leaving to others, who have this day well fulfilled the task, to present those features of his character and services which endeared him to his countrymen in life, and will endear to them his memory, now that the scenes of life are forever closed upon

now that the scenes of life are forever closed upon His career was eminently useful and fortunate; and in the whole range of American statesmen there are few, indeed, to whom our youth can better look, when seeking models of imitation and encouragement, than to WILLIAM R. KING.

Firm but courteous, frank and fearless, of high honor and irreproachable morals, he brought a vigorous intellect, and varied and extensive information to the sublic councils, and the sine fruit patriol, the able and faithful citizen. In all the relations of private life he was loved and honored, as well from the amenity of his manner as from the kindness of his heart, and in the social circle he was the very model of the accomplished gentleman. For almost half a century he was in the public service, and was intimately connected with many of the great events which marked that long and stirring period, and he proved himself equal to all the circumstances in which he was placed, sustaining himself with signal ability among men whose renown is written in imperishable charac-

ers upon the history of our country.

But better than all this, and above all this, he But better than all this, and above all this, he was a sincere Christian; adding another to the long list of eminent men who have searched the Gospel of Jesus, and have found it the will and word of God. In his last illness, when the world and the things of the world were fast fading before him, he found hope and consolation in the promises of the Saviour; and, calmly surveying the approach of death, he looked beyond its power to the glorious immortality promised to the believer. The places that knew him will know him no more; but, though dead, his memory is embalmed in the hearts of his countrymen, and there it will live. hearts of his countrymen, and there it will live, honored and cherished, long after all those who are now taking part in this tribute to his worth shall have followed him in the journey, where, for a brief space, he has preceded us through the dark valley of the shadow of death.

walley of the shadow of death.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I can scarcely hope to add anything of value to what has been so well said by others. For the last eight months the mournful event, which is now officially announced to the Senate, has been known, felt, and lamented by us all. In the meantime, we have passed through scenes well calculated to engross our thoughts and divert our attention, if not to obscure the freshness of the first impression, or assuage the keenness of that sorrow which filled every heart. But no matter what the lapse of time nor its results, the meeting of the Senate, and the absence of one whom all admired and loved, and delighted to greet and bonor, calls up associations and reminiscences which impart to the occasion all the effects of a sudden and unexpected bereavement. Those whose happiness it was to be associated the meeting of the Senate, and the absence of one whom all admired and loved, and delighted to greet and honor, calls up associations and reminiscences which impart to the occasion all the effects of a sudden and unexpected bereavement. Those whose happiness it was to be associated with Colonel King in public duty and private intercourse, are alone capable of realizing the extent of our loss. His example in all the relations of life, public and private, may be safely commended to our children as worthy of imitation. Few men in this country have ever served the public for so long a period of time, and none with a more fervent patriotism or unblemished reputation.

For forty-five years he devoted his energies and talents to the performance of arduous public duties—always performing his trust with fidelity and ability, and never failing to command the confidence, admiration, and gratitude of an enlightened constituency. While he held, in succession, numerous official stations, in each of which he maintained and enhanced his previous reputation, yet the Senate was the place of his choice, and the the-aire of his greatest usefulness. Here he sustained an enviable reputation during a period of thirty years' senatorial service, always manifesting his respect for the body by his courtesy and propriety of deportment. Here, where his observance have learned to contemplate it with the senate was the place of his choice, and the the-air of his greatest usefulness. Here he sustained an enviable reputation during a period of thirty years' senatorial service, always manifesting his respect for the body by his courtesy and propriety of deportment. Here, where his observance have learned to contemplate it with the senate was the place of his choice, and the the-air of his greatest usefulness. Here he sustained an enviable reputation during a period of thirty years' senatorial service, always manifesting his respect for the body by his courtesy and propriety of deportment. Here, where his observance have learned to contemplate i

years' senatorial service, always manifesting his respect for the body by his courtesy and propriety of deportment. Here, where his obaracter was best understood, and his usefulness and virtues most highly appreciated, his loss, as a public man and a private friend, is most painfully felt and deeply lamented.

Mr. CLAYTON. I shall only pay a debt of honor to the spirit of the dead, by offering my humble testimonial in addition to what has been

so appropriately and eloquently expressed by others. A quarter of a century has elapsed since I became acquainted with WILLIAM R. King as a brother senator on this floor. During the greater part of that long period I was an attentive observer of his course as a public man, and I cannot in justice remain silent when an opportunity is offered of paying a tribute to the memory of one who so honorably deserved it.

That man who, dying, can be said to have passed his days without a stain upon his reputation, has justly earned the honors due to a well-spent life. The Roman poet has immortalized the sentiment—

"Nec male vixit, qui natus moriensque fefellit," and WILLIAM R. King may be truly said to have passed from the cradle to the grave without a bloom

and William R. Kino may be truly said to have passed from the cradle to the grave without a blot upon his name.

The chief part of his history is written upon the records of this Senate, in which his high character as a legislator and a statesman was firmly established. I would avoid the common plans employed on occasions similar to the present, when speaking of such a man. It is not enough to say of him that he performed his duties well as a member of the Senate. He was distinguished by the scrupulous correctness of his conduct. He was remarkable for his quiet and unobtrusive, but active, practical usefulness as a legislator. He was emphatically a business member of the Senate, and, without ostentation, originated and perfected more useful measures than many who filled the public eye by greater display and daily commanded the applause of a listening Senate. He never sought with some of his cotemporaries to earn a brilliant reputation by the exhibition of splendid powers of oratory; and, to his honor be it spoken, he never vexed the ear of the Senate with ill-timed, tedious, or unnecessary debate. He preferred to be checked for silence rather than to be tasked for speech. Yet, on all occasions when a great issue was before the country, calling for the exercise of manly firmness, courage, and patriotism, Mr. King was always with those who stood foremost for the safety and the clory of the Republic.

He graced that chair of the Senate longer than any other man that ever occupied it; not continuously, or by virtue merely of repeated elections

He graced that chair of the Senate longer than any other man that ever occupied it; not continuously, or by virtue merely of repeated elections as our temporary president, but often also at the request of the presiding officer. I think he was thus engaged in the performance of the duties of President of the Senate during the greater part of the terms of five Vice Presidents; and at last he reached the second office in the gift of the people; an office excelled in honor only by one other in the world. To preside over such an assembly as the Senate of the United States, and to do that, as he did it, was enough to satisfy the highest aspirations of an honorable and patriotic ambition. In this elevated position he was distinguished (and I may add he was never excelled) for the dignity of his deportment, the impartiality of his decisions, and the promptness and fidelity with which he maintained the order and enforced the rules of this body. I can remember no instance in which he lost sight of what was due to his own self-respect or the rights of his political opponents, by the indulgence of party feelings in the chair. Presiding, as he did, when party spirit raged in torrents of fire, all just men will admit that he could have been no common man who maintained his high elevater for could have been no common man who maintained his high character for justice and impartiality at such a period. A little man, at that time, would have shown his littleness by yielding himself up as an instrument of oppression to the minority. But he sought an honest and enduring lame, and he obtained it without the employment of any unhe sought an honest and enduring lame, and he obtained it without the employment of any unworthy means, or the slightest sacrifice of principle. He engaged no hireling press, no mercenary libeler to traduce others, or to trumpet his own fame. He paid respect to the feelings of others, and rigidly exacted the observance of the same respect for himself. Generous as he was brave, his conduct to his opponents suffering under de feat, was always liberal and kind; and by his inflexible truth, he won the entire confidence of men of all parties in his own unblemished honor. Others have spoken of his services in other places, but I shall speak of nothing to which I was not a witness. While Mr. Kino remained in

the Senate, there was still one member of the body who had served with me on this floor during the session of 1829-30. It is melancholy to reflect that nearly all the rest of the senators of that period have closed their career on earth, and that not one of those who survived remain here with me to-day.

The master spirits of the time were among the senators of that day. I speak not of the living. But here, then, were Clay, Calhoun, Forsyth, Webster, and Livingston, the learned and labori-

ous Woodbury, the astute Grundy, the witty, sar-castic, and ever-ready Holmes, the classic Rob-bins, and, among many others justly distinguished, the graceful and accomplished orator of Carolina, Robert G. Hayne,

"Whose words had such a melting flow, And spoke of truth so sweetly well, They dropped like the serenest snow. And all was brightness where they fell."

Oh! I could enumerate, and delight to dwell on the virtues of them all—and then revert to him whose fame we now commemorate, as to one not inferior in integrity and honor to the proudest among them. But these reminiscences are attended by the mournful reflection that our connections with them in this world are ended for

In sparkling ruin lies, And earthly hands can ne'er again Unite those broken ties."

The resolutions were unanimously adopted. Mr. HUNTER. As a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I move that Senate do now adjourn. The motion was agreed to, and the Senate ad-

House of Representatives. On motion of Mr. EASTMAN, the House curred in the amendment of the Senate to the bill for the relief of Mr. Field, late secretary of Wis-

Consin, and his sureties.

Various petitions were presented, and notices of he introduction of bills given.
Mr. McMULLEN said that he intended to inroduce a bill for the purpose of equalizing the pay of members of Congress.

NEWSPAPERS FOR MEMBERS. On motion of Mr. RIDDLE, it was-Resolved, That, during the present Congress, each representative and delegate be furnished with such newspapers and publications as they shall severally select, not to exceed, in amount, per annun, the cost of five daily papers.

HOUSE LIBRARIAN. Mr. BAYLY, of Virginia, offered a resolution that the House proceed to elect an officer, to be called the librarian of the House of Representatives, who shall have charge of the books and documents belonging to the House. He said that here-tofore the librarian had been appointed by the clerk, pretty much as a matter of sufference.

Mr. McDONALD thoved to lay the resolution upon the table.

The question having been taken, it was decided in the negative—yeas, 94; nays, 108. No further action was taken on the resolution.

DEATH OF VICE-PRESIDENT KING. A message was received from the Senate, in-orming the House that that body had passed the following resolution:

following resolution:

"Resolved unanimously, That from respect to the late
William R. Kino, Vice president of the United States and
President of the Senate, the chair of the president be
shrowded with black; and as a further testimony of respect
for the memory of the deceased, the members of the Senate will go into mourning by wearing crape on the left
arm for thirty days.

"Ordered. That the secretary of the Senate communicate
this resolution to the House of Representatives."

so appropriately and eloquently expressed by most exalted stations of the earth. But along with the flattering consciousness of popular confidence and merited promotion, came the stunning sense that life's decaying energies were sinking to the grave. While the joyous gratulations of an admiraing people were welling up from the depths of the nation's heart, and falling with thrilling accents upon the ear of gratified ambition, there was mineling with these seather. ambition, there was mingling with them another voice from the spirit land, whose tones were heard above the loud tumult of popular asplause, and calling to the failing statesmi

"Child of the dust, come away!" "Child of the dust, come away!"

The garlands had been thrust upon the victim, only that it might prove a more fitting sacrifice for the altar, which already smoked for its immolation. What a humiliating mockery of earth's aspirations, which end in nothingness—of its evanescent honors, which vanish at the touch! and how strikingly suggestive of the

faction that "The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

"The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution Resolved, That from an unfeigued respect to the late William R. King, Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate, the Speaker's chair be shrouded in black during the present session of Congress; and, as a further testimony of respect for the memory of the decased, the members and officers of this House will go into mourning, and wear black crape on the left arm for thirty days.

Resolved, As a further mark of respect, that this House do now adjusts.

Mr. CHANDLER, of Pa., having been requested, by the representatives of Alabama, to take 2 or in the melancholy duties in which the House were in the melancholy duties in which the House were engaged, pronounced a glowing eulogy on the character, public and private, of the deceased.

Mr. LATHAM, of Cal., likewise spoke of the illustrious departed, remarking that from the lips of Mr. King first came to him words of encourage-

ment and counsel.

Mr. TAYLOR, of Ohio, paid a brief but warm Mr. TAYLOR, of Ohio, paid a brief but warm tribute to the memory of the late vice president.
Mr. ASHE, of N. C., having the honor to represent a large portion of the district which first returned Mr. King to Congress, and having enjoyed his friendship and confidence, spoke in appropriate terms of the deceased.
Mr. BENTON, of Mo., departing from the rule which he had laid down for himself, not to speak to an an occasion like the present said that himself.

which he had laid down for himself, not to speak on an occasion like the present, said that his rela-tions with the late vice president must plead his excuse for now rising to address the House. Na-tives of the same State, emigrating, when both were young, to what was then known as the far and nearly at the same time, in 1818-'19, and '20, and nearly of the same age, they remained together thirty years in that body, with the exception of a brief interval, when Mr. King represented

tion of a brief interval, when Mr. King represented his country at a foreign court.

Intimately associated in all the current business of the Senate during that time, and in all the amenities of private and social life, there grew up that state of feeling and intimacy which gave him the privilege of speaking on this occasion. For thirty years he knew him in that body. His knowledge of him went beyond thirty years. Forty years, and still did not reach the commencement of his public services. As a friend and associate, and a native of the same State as the late Vice President, he must think it a providential privilege, being his senior, on this occasion to join his voice with those who preceded him, in doing honor to the deceased in the presence of the nation's representatives.

sehtatives.
Mr. PHILLIPS pronounced an eloquent eulogy on the late Mr. King, expressing, in conclusion, the hope that the light of his example may long continue to illuminate the paths of the representatives of the State which now holds his remains and cherishes his memory.

The resolutions were then agreed to unani

ously, And the House adjourned till Monday.

Mr. CHANDLER presented two petitions from John F. Dumas, of Philadelphia, relative to claims on Spain previous to the acquisition of Florida by the United States.

From the New York Herald of the 2d inst. Oliver Wendall Holmes upon Browning and Tennyson.

Dr. Oliver Wendall Holmes delivered the sixth and last lecture of his course upon the English poets, last evening, at Hope Chapel. The subject of the lecture was Tennyson and Browning. A very large and fashionable audience was in attendance, who were all, it is presumed, somewhat curious to hear the Boston humorist—the man with the course described. curious to hear the Boston humorist—the man who "never dares to write as funny as he can"—discourse upon the merits of the dreamy sentimentalism of Tennyson, and the passionate earnestness of Browning. He commenced by remarking that the poets of whom he had spoken hitherto were all dead, and belong to the past; but as the subject of his present lecture he had chosen Tennyson, the present poets levered her the present lecture in the present levered her the pr Tennyson, the present poet laureate, and Browning. Tennyson is a favorite with a great many people, and with good reason. His poetry, it is true, is not popular with the masses, oi polloi, but it is rather the poetry of the drawing-room and the boudoir. He seems sovereignly ignorant of the masses. From his poems we should judge him to be a shy and retired man, more proud than vain, who loves his race better than he likes them. The first thing that strikes us in Tennyson's poetry is the exquisite choice of words and the velvet-like softness of its melody. We next come to his richness of diction, and his immense concentrativeness of meaning. But in the gitter of organical ness of meaning. But in the glitter of ornament the great underlying qualities should not be for-gotten. The spirit of his muse is subdued, almost gotten. The spirit of his muse is subdued, almost melancholy. "In Memoriam" is a tender sigh from beginning to end. The lecturer referred to the "Princess" for pathos, and to "Marianna" for imagination. From the latter he quoted the well-

cnown passage so full of suggestiveness All day within the dreamy house The doors upon their hinges creaked,
The blue fly sang in the pane; the mouse
Behind the mouldering wainesot squeak
Or from the crevice peered about.
Old faces glimmered through the doors,
Old footsteps trod the upper floors,
Old voices called her from without.

"In Memoriam" we must read in quiet, suffer ing the delicious lines, as Coleridge said of sleep, to "slide into the soul." Such tender affection. to "slide into the soul." Such tender affection, such infinite sorrow, such simplicity and truth, the lecturer had seen nothing like in the whole range of elegiac verse. But Tennyson did not write for the masses. The aristocratic splendor of his verse shrinks even from contact with the unappreciative many. He moves amidst pomp and splendor in stately palaces, and in the glitter of exclusiveness, and these tastes never cease to be manifest in his poems. It is only at intervals that the swite of and these tastes never cedse to be manifest in his poems. It is only at intervals that the spirit of the times declares itself in his productions. The poet laureate, according to the lecturer's opinion, was apt to show itself in the tendency of the bard's works. It renders him more conservative, and in his aspirations for the future he evidently dislikes some of the means used for the attainment of its golden promises. The lecturer contended that Tennyson in his style belongs to the Anglo-Hellenic school, and that all the ancient simplicity, directness, and strength are apparent. There is a good deal of correspondence between Keats and Tennyson. They both exhibit that keen sensibility to beauty, together with an infirm and weak purpose. These sensitive men are undervalued by the go-ahead and utilitarian men of these times. Beauty should be valued for its own sake alone. Tennyson, like others of this school, has not the Tennyson, like others of this school, has not the

Tennyson, like others of this school, has not the elements of a popular poet.

The lecturer spoke very briefly of Browning, and quoted copiously from his longer poems. There was a great contrast between these two poets. The force and energy of Browning at times amounted to fury. He was evidently a good hater, and all his poems showed strength, fire, and violence of expression. The lecturer examined the practical construction of "Paracelsus" at some length, and concluded by expressing his warm admiration of Browning's last published poems—not republished here, we believe—entitled "Christmas Eve" and "Easter Day." They form, taken together, he said, one of the most pungent evangelical discourses that have been seen for many a day. It was the work of a poet and a man of metter. It is conclusion, the lecturer gave a general resume of his course of lectures, and touched, in passing, upon two or three whom he had not mentioned were a seen on the series of the resume of his course of lectures, and touched, in passing, upon two or three whom he had not mentioned, among whom he dwelt upon Thomas Hood, and designated the "Song of the Shirt" and the "Bridge of Sighs" as the two mighty lyrics that had reached the hearts and consciences of more of the proud and wealthy than many a sermon. He concluded by thanking the audience for the patience and attention they had bestowed upon him during this and previous lectures, and bade them farewell in the shape of a next and apposite farewell in the shape of a neat and apposit

Telegraphic Feat and Enterprise .-- New Telegraphic Feat and Enterprise.—New Orleans, Dec. 7.—The Picay one of yesterday afternoon, published exclusively, a full and complete synopsis of the President's Message, delivered in Washington at one o'clock, P. M. It was transmitted direct from the capital over the Washington and Southern Telegraph line. An immense number of copies were stricken off and distributed all over the city of New Orleans, and read nearly as soon as was the message at the capitol. This is emphatically the age of progress and unyielding enterprise.

Hackett is playing Falstaff at Cincinnat